CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method comprising:

2   establishing a node as a nominal root node, the nominal root node

3 being a node with a right to transmit a packet on a bus; and

4   dynamically changing the nominal root node responsive to a change in

5 right to transmit on the bus.

1   2.   An apparatus comprising:

2   a first port; and

3   a physical layer (PHY) coupled to the first port that encodes a last

4 packet of a subaction for transmission on a serial bus, the PHY arbitrating a next

5 access to the serial bus and attaching a grant token to the last packet of the subaction

6 to be transmitted out a highest priority port.

1   3.   A system comprising:

2   a full duplex serial bus; and

3   a plurality of nodes coupled together in a tree topology by the serial bus

4 wherein a node transmitting a current packet is a nominal root node of the tree

5 topology and wherein each other node repeatedly transmits current arbitration

6 information toward the nominal root node.